

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A lighting unit comprising:

a lighting element provided with a light source, a light guiding plate having the light source provided at one of facets thereof and guiding light emitted from the light source to emit the light from a light emission face, and a reflector for covering a rear face and the facets of the light guiding plate and the light source; and

a housing for covering an edge portion of the light emission face of the lighting element, the facets and the rear face of supporting the lighting element, wherein

a shield portion for shielding gaps which formed between the housing and the lighting element and extends to the light emission face is provided between at least the rear face of the lighting element and the housing. ~~preventing dust from entering the lighting element through gaps between the housing and the facets of the lighting element is provided between the housing and the lighting element.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein

heat discharge holes for discharging heat generated in the unit to the outside of the unit are formed in a region of the housing, the region is located so as to correspond to the rear face of the lighting element. ~~the housing has a frame for supporting the lighting element from a light emission face side and facet sides, a rear face supporter for supporting the lighting element from a rear face side, and heat discharge holes formed on the rear face supporter for discharging heat~~

~~generated in the unit to the outside of the unit, and~~

~~the shield portion is disposed at least between an underside of the lighting element and a bottom of the housing.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The lighting unit according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein

the housing has frame portion which covers the edge portion of the light emission face and the facets of the lighting element and rear face supporting portion which covers the rear face of the lighting element and the lower end portion of the frame portion. ~~constitute the frame and are mounted on the light emission face side of the lighting element and rear face supporting portion which constitute the rear face supporter and are fitted with the frame portion to house the lighting element; and~~

~~gaps communicating with the light emission face of the lighting element, which are formed between the frame portion of the housing and the rear face supporting portion, are shielded with the shield portion.~~

4. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the shield portion is tabular and is positioned in such a fashion that an outer periphery thereof is between an inner periphery and an outer periphery of each of the frame portion.

5. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the shield portion has the shape of a box and is positioned in such a fashion that an outer periphery thereof is between an inner periphery and an outer periphery of each of the frame portion.

6. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein the shield portion is made from a material having heat conductivity higher than that of the air.

7. (Original) A liquid crystal display device characterized by comprising the lighting unit of claim 1 and a liquid crystal panel disposed on the light emission face side of the lighting unit.

8. (Original) A liquid crystal display device characterized by comprising the lighting unit of claim 6 and a liquid crystal panel disposed on the light emission face of the lighting unit.